THE FARMING WORLD.

HOG AND CALF STABLE.

Exterior and Interior Views Which Explain Themselves.

We present in Fig. 1 a very practical stable for the shelter of hogs and calves with yards attached. This building can be made of any dimensions, so that this point can be best decided by the farmer building it. A

FIG. 1.

small door opens up into a yard on either side of the building, giving fresh air and exercise to the animals in favorable weather. The small door to the right of building is used to remove the manure from the stables. On the opposite side of the building is a similar door. The space between the hog and calf stables is wide enough to put

FIG. 2.

in one feed bin at the far end of the building, which is very convenient in winter weather. This building is one of many on the farm of an Ohio farmer, whose practical ideas I had the pleasure of listening to during a visit to his lovely farm.

Figs. 2 and 3 are interior views of the stable. The calf stable (Fig. 2) is

FIG. 3.

provided with small, comfortable stalls, and room sufficient for them. The hog stable (Fig. 3) is divided into two compartments—one for a sow with young pigs, the other for odd sexes.—John W. Caughey, in Country Gentleman.

CONCERNING STRAW.

Its Disposition Leaves a Wide Margin for Wise Judgment.

It is a vexed question what to do with the straw. One says it must be worked into manure—as much of it through the animal as possible, when a part of it will be made over into animal produce, and the rest, going into the manure pile as dung, will be so finely ground up that it will rot readily; the rest to be used as litter. Thus all of it is utilized at home. Another would burn it, presumably on the wheat land, with the stubble, and says it is worth $2 a ton to the land so treated. Another would spread it and plow it under; and still another would sell it, the price obtained being from $2 to $15, according to the state of the market and the condition of the straw, whether much broken or not. The fact is, no single rule will answer for all cases; each one must decide his own case for himself, on business principles. If no animal product of any kind can be sold with profit, commercial manures can be used to advantage to replace plant food sold in the straw; and if there is a good market for it, sell it. If all these conditions are just reversed, use it up in the barn. If it can be neither sold or fed, the pile of it is large, and the quantity of manure made is small, then burn it with the stubble. Last of all plow it in: a last resort, because of the difficulty in getting it well covered, and of the slowness with which it decays when so treated; not till decayed has it any use as plant food. The manurial value of my straw is estimated at $2 per ton; if burned, half of this may be lost in the nitrogen, all of which passes off into the air. If fed to the stock, it cannot but realize more than its mere manurial value, for animal produce is worth more than manure. If threshed by hand, and the straw is left in a good condition, little broken, it has been sold for $15 a ton. There is a wide margin here for wise judgment as to what to do with the straw.—Dr. G. G. Caldwell, in N. Y. Tribune.

SHEEP SHEARINGS.

V SHAPED troughs are best for feeding grain.

A LAMB need not be despised because it is small.

SHEEP may be made the gleaners of the farm; the savers of waste.

GIVE sheep plenty of water and salt and they will soon clean a field.

TO RAISE early lambs for the market the ewes must be of good healthy stock.

IF raising early lambs is to be undertaken select out the breeding ewes in good season.

SOME breeders claim that early lambs grow faster, are healthier and make larger sheep than late ones.

ONE advantage with sheep is that if properly managed they eat their food cleaner than horses or cattle.

GENERALLY with wool shipped to market it requires a longer time to get returns than with almost any other farm product.

CROSSING a Merino ewe with a Shropshire ram is often done to increase the size of the carcass for mutton.—Indicator.

FEEDING EXPERIMENT.

A Piggery Test Covering a Period of Nearly Five Months.

On the 23d of April I selected and weighed six pure bred Chester White pigs, eight weeks old (farrowed by one of my choicest sows) that I intended to prepare for exhibition at our coming county fair. Their combined weight at that time was 178 pounds. I then weighed out 120 pounds of feed, consisting of equal parts by weight of corn meal and shorts. This was mixed with about equal parts of milk and water to the consistency of thick cream and fed three times per day.

The 120 pounds of feed was consumed in 19 days. The pigs were weighed again May 12, and showed a gain of 118 pounds. Another batch of feed was then mixed and fed as before, except that the proportion of milk in the rations was much reduced, other young pigs needing it more. The 120 pounds was consumed in 18 days, the pigs making a gain of 97 pounds. As the feed was now eaten so rapidly, the amount of the batch was doubled, making it 240 pounds. This was consumed in 26 days, the pigs making a gain of 162 pounds, or 81 pounds for each 120 pounds of feed.

As I intended to sell them for breeding purposes, I found they were laying on too much fat, and the meal was therefore dropped from the rations. From that time they were fed clear shorts.

Six hundred pounds of shorts was then weighed out, being five times the original quantity. This was consumed in 28 days, making a gain of 190 pounds, or 38 pounds for each 120 pounds of feed. Another batch of 600 pounds was consumed in 21 days, they making a very slight gain over the former period, or 192 pounds, being a gain of 32 pounds and a fraction for each 120 pounds of shorts.

As the hog nature was now developing, and they were mean and contrary to weigh and handle, 1,200 pounds, or ten times the original quantity, was fed before weighing. This was consumed in 38 days. During this period they made a gain of 236, or 22 3-5 pounds for each 120 pounds of feed. They weighed, on September 9, 1,170 pounds, an average of 195 pounds each. The experiment covered a period of 129 days, during which time they consumed 2,880 pounds of feed and made a gain of 992 pounds, 7 1-7 pounds per day.

While a single experiment does not establish a fact, this goes to show that a much larger gain was made during the first half of the period than during the last half. When they had consumed 1,080 pounds of feed, they weighed 742 pounds and could have been sold at a good profit. While consuming the last 1,200 pounds of feed they barely paid their way. I have had the pleasure of their society during the experiment, but their days of usefulness to me are about over, and they and I must soon part company.—I. E. Lacy, in Country Gentleman.

SELECTION OF STOCK.

A Matter of Great Importance to the Average Farmer.

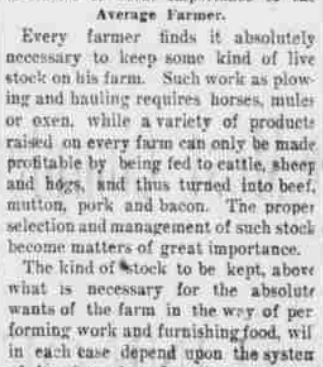
Every farmer finds it absolutely necessary to keep some kind of live stock on his farm. Such work as plowing and hauling requires horses, mules or oxen, while a variety of products raised on every farm can only be made profitable by being fed to cattle, sheep and hogs, and thus turned into beef, mutton, pork and bacon. The proper selection and management of such stock become matters of great importance.

The kind of stock to be kept, above what is necessary for the absolute wants of the farm in the way of performing work and furnishing food, will in each case depend upon the system of farming adopted as best suited to the nature and size of the farm. In selecting stock, whether sheep, cattle horses or hogs, the same common sense principles should govern as in other things. The best breeds, that is those best for particular purposes, should be selected, as they are in general the most economical. If the farmer wishes to raise beef, or mutton, or pork for the market, he should select those breeds that can make the most flesh out of a given amount of food. Meat-producing animals are machines for converting vegetable food into flesh and those breeds that give the greatest yield with the least care and expense in management are the best. If the production of milk or wool be the object, the same principle should govern.—Farmer's Voice.

SIMPLE BUT USEFUL.

Perch and Droppings-Board for the Poultry House.

We give an end view only because it is made plain. A A is an end piece of two-inch board, 20 inches long and 6 inches wide. B B are the bottom boards, 1 inch thick and 12 inches wide; they are 6 feet long, but may be of any



PERCH AND DROPPINGS BOARD.

length. D D are the legs, 22 inches long, and G the perch.

When in position, the top of the droppings board is open like a trough, as A A is only an end piece, B B running the whole length. The droppings are removed with a hand shovel or through an opening placed anywhere in the bottom. The nests can be placed under this board as well as under a broad, flat board.—Farm and Fireside.

ONE time to sell is when everybody wants hogs. Buy when all are anxious to part with them.

STOCK ITEMS.

Cattle seem to prefer rather coarse hay or fodder while, on the other hand, sheep prefer both fine hay and fodder.

To make cattle pay, such treatment must be given as is calculated to promote health, thrift and early development.

Calves should have enough feed for growth in flesh, muscle and bone, besides keeping up the natural waste of the system.

By feeding at short intervals all that an animal will eat up clean the hogs can be made to fatten more rapidly, but the work must be done regularly.

The winter quarters for the calves should be warm, light and dry. The calves will make a much better and thriftier growth if they are made comfortable in winter.

In many cases the farmer that can only keep a few sheep will find the mutton breeds the most profitable as they require the care the farmer can best give to secure the best results.

It is claimed that it requires eleven pounds of skim milk to add one pound of live weight to a growing calf. Of course this is the average; in some cases more and in others less will be required.

Whenever the sows are expected to farrow they should have a bed to themselves in sufficient time to get well accustomed to their quarters, otherwise they are liable to be restless and uneasy.

It is no advantage to let cows run down during the winter and then be obliged to take the best part of the spring to make up what has been lost. A little additional feed will not only keep them thrifty, but in many cases insure a good flow of milk, and this implies a profit rather than a loss, as is so often the case when the cows are fed on the plan of barely keeping them alive through the winter.

With sheep as with other stock it is important to keep in good, thrifty condition, but at the same time it is necessary to do this as economically as possible. One of the principal objects in sheltering is that less feed, especially less grain, is needed than when they are exposed, and this, of course, lessens the cost, while in nearly all cases the sheep will be thriftier and healthier and grow a better fleece of wool.

Feed to a considerable extent determines the quality and quantity of the milk and butter. It does not pay to keep a cow on half rations and hardly get a good milking at any time during the winter. In most cases both the milk and butter are of more value during the winter than at any other time, and generally enough more to make it worth while to give the cows good treatment during the winter. They must be fed enough to live, at least, and they ought to have enough to keep them thrifty.

FARM NOTES.

Keeping fowls until they are too old is one case of poultry failing to return a good profit.

The fruiting of the orchard is the end of its culture and everything should tend to this end.

Poultry may be made profitable, or an intolerable nuisance, according to the treatment given.

When the poultry house is made warm care should be taken to see that it is well ventilated daily.

Geese have no business on the farm unless they have a pasture where they can be kept under control.

Ducks are enormous eaters, but they grow to maturity very rapidly and can readily be made profitable.

Often an unfruitful orchard can be brought into bearing by a good application of manure and working well into the soil.

So far as is possible all of the manure used in the garden should be thoroughly rotted out and be well incorporated with the soil.

Do not attempt to raise a great amount of fruit, which ripens at the same time that everything else is over stocking the market.

Whenever grain is fed in cold or stormy weather it should nearly always be fed among litter so as to give the hens an opportunity to scratch and exercise.

For general planting for family use the Concord is one of the very best grapes, but in some cases, in planting especially for market, it will be more profitable to plant some of the earlier varieties.

As soon as the corn has sufficiently dried out the quicker it is put in the cribs the better. If left in the field there is more or less loss from different causes that can readily be avoided by cribbing in good season.

In England farming is considered a business that must be learned as well as anything else. A man without experience would have difficulty in renting or leasing a good farm there, no matter how much capital he might have, and again, no matter what his experience, he could not lease unless he could show capital enough to stock and operate it properly.

Good ventilation is an important item with corn. It is not necessary, however, in providing this that the outside of the cribs should be so open as to admit rain and snow, for these will often damage the corn more than lack of ventilation. One of the best plans is to have a double crib, and then make it tight on the outside with slats inside and good ventilation overhead. Rather long and narrow cribs are better for corn than any other kind.

Notes.

After a crop is made it is certainly good economy to save it in the best condition possible, and this can best be done by harvesting as soon as it is fully ready.

The owner of good stock has a right to feel a just pride in the ownership of choice animals.

The productive capacity of land should determine its real value rather than the price asked for it.

While prices for all kinds of cattle are low, yet there is a considerable difference in the prices between the best and the poorest.

FASHION LETTER.

Something About Fall and Winter Fabrics and Costumes.

[Special New York Correspondence.]

Dress skirts with rather high corselet tops are still greatly liked for house dresses, as nearly any sort of pretty silk or wool shirt-waist looks well with them, and the shoulder straps attached to the corselet afford an opportunity for the further display of the handsome trimmings on other portions of the gown. The variety of winter dress goods is beyond even enumeration, and what with the gay blanket plaids and the striped, dotted, shaded, changeable and checked materials of the season, made up into jaunty Eton costumes, Russian suits and directoire and empire gowns, the latter with their sashes and slashes, open coats, full

picturesque sleeves, double breasted vests, high collars and revers, it would seem hardly possible for those to be dissatisfied who delight in bright colors, and novel, fancy effects. The empire and directoire gowns are increasing in favor constantly, but besides these many of the stylish dresses, both for street and home wear, are being made in princesse shape scarcely trimmed at all. Others, however, are quite elaborate, so that to trim or not to trim is purely a matter of taste. Those designed for home wear are of fine soft wool, or of some of the pretty winter silks with dark grounds brightened with small dots or tiny flowers in gay colors. For slender, youthful women, some of these princess dresses are made to hook or button down the back with the usual bias seam down the back of the skirt; others are finished with a Watteau arrangement, starting in a point from between the shoulders, and widening into a cornet demi-train. The open Russian front displays a gathered vest of bright silk matching the color of the figure in the dress fabric, and, as a rule, the large full sleeves are of velvet.

The popular Eton styles will continue fashionable throughout the winter, but all outdoor costumes display the more conventional modes, the deep cape or three-quarter coat, being very often of the same fabric as the bodice and skirt. Silk faced velvet is the preferred fabric for nearly all the pretty fancy jackets and theater coats, but there are also close cuirass-shaped jackets very open in the front, and those of soft Russian velours with gay blouse vests finished with a frill of rich lace from throat to belt, or with a glove-fitting vest shaped with a girdle as a finish. For stout women is the new seven gored French skirt; for slender ones, the improved seamless skirt, which is made of goods wide enough to place the selvedge edges at the waist and hem. One of these seamless models shows a cornet back, with the opening from the left hip down, narrow flaps or button-holes holding a row of handsome buttons all the way down.

Among some particularly rich and effective toilets, are those made with a graceful bell skirt of velvet—black, olive-green, deep garnet, etc., wholly untrimmed. Added to these skirts are various stylish waists made severally of velvet, striped satin, palm patterned silk, plain scarlet faille, polka dotted surah, and, for special wear, of rich cream silk or brocade, with full empire sleeves and Medici collar. Other waists are made of pale rose pink crepe de chine, yellow faille striped with velvet, or deep corn-colored Ottoman silk garnished with rich black lace. Among new dress fabrics is the pure vicuna wool with a rough camel's hair figure raised on its surface. Hop sack cheviot is a kind of basket-patterned wool that comes in black and navy blue, and with skirts of these fabrics are worn three-quarter princess coats of ribbed velvet or Russian velours.

Very stylish directoire costumes are made of Napoleon blue, chestnut brown, Indian red, or rosy violet camel's hair or cloth, decorated variously with narrow fur edgings, Russian galloon or feather bands. The fronts open broadly, turning back in revers that reach to the hem, revealing a close-fitting, princess-like underdress made of cloth or palm-patterned or striped satin. This fastens invisibly and is trimmed around the bottom of the skirt-portion with heavy Milan galloon, the color of the directoire underdress, making a very tasty and finished garment.

FUNERALS OUT IN LEADVILLE.

Wild Life in Colorado's Historic Mining Camp.

To one who passes along the streets of Leadville, Col., now there is just one feature in particular which serves as a mark of comparison of the Leadville of to-day with the mining camp of thirteen years ago. Leadville now is respectable, staid and as solemn as a mining city can be, but it isn't the solemnity in the abstract that strikes one now. It is a specific solemnity which concerns itself with funerals. To one who has lived in the past, when every funeral was an occasion for as much celebration as a circus, the quiet and sedate cortege moving along Chestnut street to-day is something not to be considered. It is too gloomy to suit the old-timer; but, alas! the old-timer is no more.

In 1879 the town was wild. Everybody carried a "gun." Not in his pocket, mind you. Only the natural-born fool did, and he rarely lived to repent it. The weapon was stuck in his belt, right handy for immediate action. As a consequence rarely a day passed without a violent death. Added to this the work of pneumonia kept the grave-digger over in the valley at work night and day. This may sound like exaggeration, but it isn't. The twinkling lights in the valley presented a grewsome appearance at night, and more so when their purpose was known. They lit the grave-diggers at work. Pneumonia was a fearful enemy. Men were strong, fearless, healthy in the morning, and when evening came with it was the physician, and the next day the undertaker. No accommodations fit to be called such were obtainable, and men after days of hard work in the mines were obliged to sleep in that frosted atmosphere wherever they could.

Rev. T. J. Mackey was the most popular clergyman in town at that time. He was loved by the good people and respected, almost venerated by the gamblers and miners, which doesn't imply that miners were not in themselves reputable people. Whenever a miner or sporting man or woman died it was Parson Mackey who was called in. There was one day in particular when the parson held four funerals, and that was the record. Four was frequently equaled, but it stood as the top notch for one clergyman.

Mr. Mackey, who was an Episcopal clergyman, held services in the Tabor opera house. Fifty dollars a day was the rent, and the collections never fell short. It was necessary to close the doors then long before the time for the beginning of the service to keep back the crowds. The four-funeral day spoken of was the day on which J. B. Omohundro, known all over the world as "Texas Jack," was buried.

Leadville never did funerals by halves. A brass band was a regular thing. No funeral was held without one. The band attending upon Jack was one of fifty pieces; being a combination of several. Fay Templeton's opera company was playing an engagement in Leadville, and Fay agreed to supply her company to act as choir. The coffin was set upon the stage, loaded with flowers, and flowers were rarer than mines in Leadville, and Rev. Mr. Mackey appeared in his regimentals as chaplain of the Tabor Light Guards to preach the funeral sermon. As he proceeded, whenever he made an allusion to any good quality in Jack, the congregation applauded as vociferously as though they were approving a fine feature of a play. There was no disorder—these people meant it all. They wept at the preacher's words and stamped their feet in approval of his hope for Jack's chances "over there."

Before the services Mr. Mackey had been waited upon by the Tabor Light Guards. They recited to him the fact that all the senior officers but the chaplain were absent from the city, and told him that as he was ranking officer of the day he must don his regimentals and lead the company. At first he demurred vigorously, but finally, equipped with blue and gold and a sword that knew not its place and the propriety of keeping it, he marched upon the stage to help Jack along. When the services were over he found they had provided a horse for him to lead the column. The preacher wasn't the most remarkable horseman in the world, but he was game, and he mounted and started away. Directly the band struck up the "dead march in "Saul," the preacher and his steed became almost as prominent as the corpse—or they would have been elsewhere than in Leadville. Here everything went. The dominie waltzed to the graveyard on his fiery charger—actually waltzed. But nobody noticed that. That was a regular thing, or at least not a striking innovation.

At Omohundro's funeral, as at all funerals in Leadville, work of all kinds was suspended. Men and women thronged upon the sidewalks—packed them. One could really have walked on the heads of the people and nobody would have noticed it.

In those days the undertaker took great pride in the turnout. Riding in the carriage with the preacher he would look back lovingly and say.

"—Ah, now, this is a funeral that is a funeral. This is something like. Look at the crowds, parson, and we've got seven more pieces in the band than attended the Swede that McCloskey buried yesterday."

Undertakers were put to it sometimes. There is a tradition which has almost enough substantiation to it to be truth, to the effect that at one time the ready revolver and the active pneumonia entirely cleared out the stock of coffins in Leadville, and the undertakers were actually obliged to rob graves at night, not of bodies, but of coffins. Quite frequently a preacher was obliged to request the grave-digger to stop in his work of digging a grave behind him for fear of toppling over into it. Besides it disturbed the mourners, who could not for the lives of them help looking earnestly at the digger to see if he was turning up any quartz.

It was on the day of Texas Jack's funeral that Parson Mackey marched to the cemetery four times to the tune of the dead march in "Saul." It was almost as numerous on the day when Charley Vivian was buried. Vivian was a song and dance man, the originator of the Order of Elks, and the most popular man in Leadville. He was the son of an English clergyman and an intellectual man, aside from which he was clear white. His good works were many, and when he died, after two days' illness, his funeral was the grandest spectacle the camp had seen. It was about a fair double of that of Texas Jack. There was the band, the flowers, the wild applause at every mention of his good qualities, and the tears, too, of the people. At the grave they sang: "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," and sped him on his way. Vivian's remains were disinterred a few years ago and taken east for burial by the lodge he founded. But to this day he is loved by the old-timers.

Old-timers! alas, they are few now. Not many are so circumstanced as in those silver days. One man who subscribed three hundred dollars to a one-thousand-dollar purse for "the parson" died a tramp. One, a bank president then, was last heard of selling some sort of a patent gimcrack for his daily bread. They are scattered now, and it is not likely that such another gathering will ever collect again.—Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

"THE TALKIN'EST MAN."

He Could be Recognized Without a Personal Description.

"I had gone up one fork of the mountain road and it led me into a little inclosure with a log meeting house in the center and a dozen bridle paths leading out of it; then I went back to the main road and up another fork, and this time I went into a stable lot, with the proprietor of the place sitting on the fence.

"Good morning," I said, "can you tell me the way to Pinchem?"

"Course I kin," he responded. "Do ye wanter go thar?"

"Well, yes, I thought I would if I could," I admitted.

"Easy ez fallin' off a log," he said, getting down from the fence.

"All right; tell me, and I'll go."

"Did you notice about whar you left the main road a feller plowin' over on the hillside?"

"I saw a plow with a mule hitched to it, but no man."

"Course not; he's the laziest, oneriest cuss in the country. He's sleepin' in the shade this very minute. That's his way. He's been a plowin' at that ar' field for six weeks. Men comes along with a jug uv liquor and axes him to go fishin', an' he draps the plow an' goes. 'Nother one wants him to go huntin,' an' off he goes. Then ef ther ain't nobody axes him to go no place he goes to sleep anywhar in the furrer that the fit takes him. Can't git apast a shade to save his durn skin. He—"

"How about the road?" I said, breaking in on him.

"Ez I wuz goin' on to say, jist acrost from whar you seen the plow, the road goes off to the right. You take that an' about a quarter uv a mild down thar, you come to two men buil'in' a post an' rail fence. Man owns half that field is a wuthless cuss. I've been arter him fer two ye'r to go harves with me in buildin' a fence, but he won't fetch it. Says a post an' rail fence is too forred fer these parts, an' 'll skeer the hosses. Won't build no fence at all, that's what's the matter with him, so I've got to do it in self-defense. Neighbors like that ain't no good to a man, and I wisht to thunder the chollery er somethin' er other would carry him off. But, it won't. Decent man like me never has no luck in this durn country nohow."

"You say the road——" I began when he stopped.

"Yas, the road forks ag'in down thar an' you bear to the left fer about a half a mild, tell you see a hewed log house on a raise. Woman lives thar that is the purtiest thing in this yere country. I'm a widderer, but she ain't pertikeler on that p'int, an' ef you come along this away about next spring lookin' fer the road, you'll be mighty likely to find me on that raise. Got a wife uv your own?" he inquired, breaking in on himself suddenly.

"Yes, and she's down to Pinchem," I said rather sharply. "That's what I'm going there for."

"No, you don't say?" he exclaimed with much interest. "I calkerlate ez how a man ez rides ezlikely a critter ez that un yer on 'ud hev a powerful good-lookin' wife. Aint she?"

"Yes, she's pretty fair to look at," I replied, blushing at the untruth, for I did'nt have any wife, and she wouldn't have been at Pinchem if I had had one.

"Thought so," he said; "but I'll bet a hoss she ain't finer'n that 'un I'm squintin' at."

By this time it occurred to me that I had struck the "falkin'est man on the crick," of whom I had heard, and I began to hedge.

"Well," I said, "I'm coming back this way with her and we'll compare: Good morning," and I'm shot if I didn't ride off and the man utterly forgot to give me another word of instruction as to how to get to Pinchem. I found that out by waking up the man asleep by his plow.—Detroit Free Press.

Chinese Servants in England.

It is a serious question and the solution suggested by a lady traveller lately returned from a long sojourn in California is, don't waste your tears in regretting the much-exacting plain cook, the incompetent "general," but employ Chinese labor. One Chinese will do the work of three ordinary English maids. He is quiet, quick and reliable: you never need to give an order twice. His cooking is perfection, as anyone who has enjoyed not his roasts and entres, but his fresh-made bread and biscuits, will tell you. As a parlor maid (save the mark!) he leaves nothing to be desired. His wages are not exorbitant, and all he asks is a modest little cabin in the corner of your garden or back yard.—Pall Mall Gazette.